

defects of detail which made it impracticable.¹ The criticism which it aroused postponed action until 1902, when another sharp fall in silver caused new derangement to the exchanges. A committee was then appointed by the home government, headed by Sir David Barbour, which completed its report in May, 1903.

This committee recommended that a special silver dollar be coined for the Straits, of 416 grains, nine-tenths fine, which should be gradually substituted for the Mexican and the British dollar, which had been formerly coined. When a supply of the new dollars had been received, the importation of the old coins and the exportation of the new should be prohibited. It was proposed that the new dollar should be raised by scarcity to a gold value to be fixed at a later date and that when this stage was reached the new coins should be first given at a fixed rate for gold and eventually that gold should be given for silver, so long as gold was available, or bills should be given on Crown agents in London, based on the fixed rate of exchange.² This plan was adopted by the Legislative Council on May 29, 1903. The new dollars began to reach Singapore early in October and were put in circulation through the banks.

The failure to prescribe a definite gold value to be ultimately attained by the new coin led to perturbations, which were perhaps intensified by the unexpected rise of silver. It had been the general expectation that the value of the new coins would be fixed ultimately at two shillings, but the rise in silver made it evident that such a valuation — about four per cent, below that of the Philippine coins of similar weight — would soon send them to the melting pot. Hence began a violent speculation in exchange for a higher gold value, which was terminated only when the Governor in Council finally, on January 29, 1906, fixed the exchange value of the dollar at 28 pence, or at the rate of \$60 for

¹ Cf. Kemmerer, *Political Science Quarterly*, December, 1904, XIX., 638-40.

² *Commission on International Exchange, Jpoj*, 289.

³ The story of the speculative operations is graphically told by